

we relieved Gen'l Cooke's⁹⁶ Brigade on last Sunday morning, which is now on our left, about 2 miles, and North of the York River Rail Road. We had been on the Charles City Road, about 1½ miles to our right. The battle field of Seven Pines streches across the Road about 1½ miles below us. I was on Picket on last Monday on the Rail Road at Fair Oaks Station, near which place Gen'l Joe Johnston was wounded. The Yankees call it the battle of Fair Oaks, on the head boards which they have placed over the graves of their slain. You may remember that we were not successful in the attacks made on the 31st. of May, 1862, on the enemy right. There are large pits of our dead, about ¾ of a mile North of the Station, who fell in attempts to take a battery there. A Gentleman from Columbia, S.C. had opened one of them in search of his son, he did not find him on that day, and left the pit open to continue the search next day, but there was a rain all the morning and he did not come back. I saw a great many bodies exposed on Tuesday morning. They were our men, and had been buried by the Yankees in seven layers, a sickening and horrible sight. Near by were a good many Yankee graves of New York troops, 34th., 57th., and 2nd. Reg'ts. Col. Champ Davis⁹⁷ was killed near this place, and Gen'l Pettigrew wounded. The Yankee's breast-works used in this battle had been most torn down. On Wednesday our Brigade tore down some some very skillfully constructed works, about 4 miles below here, which were abandoned after Gen'l Jackson drove McClellan from the other side of the Chickahominy. On Thursday, Gen'l Jenkins'⁹⁸ Brigade, Ransoms' and Cooke's, moved down under Gen'l D.H. Hill to find out what the Yankees are doing below. We crossed the Chickahominy at Bottom ridge. We found some intrenchments which had been thrown up by the Yankees, on this side last year's, to prevent Jackson from crossing. He crossed at another point. Gen'l Jenkins' Brigade was ordered forward to attack the enemy, whom we understood (about four Regiments) to be some five miles from us, on Crump's Farm. Our Brigade followed, as their support, and Gen'l Cooke's in reserve. Gen'l Jenkins had

⁹⁶ John R. Cooke.

⁹⁷ Champion Talleyrand Napoleon Davis (1826-1862), of Rutherford County, was a successful lawyer who represented Burke County in the state senate (1854) and Rutherford County in the Commons (1860). He raised and equipped Company G, Sixteenth North Carolina Regiment. Later he was colonel of the regiment and died while leading it at Seven Pines, May 31, 1862. Griffin, *Old Tryon and Rutherford Counties*, 244-245.

⁹⁸ General Micah Jenkins.